

Bardo Native American Pottery Exhibit

February 3, 2010

An American Indian proverb states: “Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.”

This quote captures the essence of the Native American Indian whose rich heritage is steeped in traditions that honor man, the Great Spirit, and Mother Earth. America is what it is today because it was built on the shoulders of unsung heroes—those who championed human rights before they were en vogue, those who understood the importance of environmental responsibility before there was an Earth Day, and those whose presence created trails before there were streets and roads. Our exhibition today is a small tribute to the life and legacy of the American Indian. The collection of pottery from Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico are remnants of Hopi and other tribes, serves as a reminder of the exquisite craftsmanship and artisanship of the Native Americans.

Over the last few years, the U.S. Embassy and the Bardo Museum have cultivated a unique partnership—a partnership that brings this exhibit to you and one that will bring a significant Native American Exhibit to the Bardo Museum in late 2010/early 2011. This past November, the American Embassy – Bardo partnership brought archaeologist Nicole Waguespack to Algeria to assist with identifying, classifying, and cataloguing items for this future exhibit. The work of Waguespack and the Bardo Museum will be published prior to the exhibition.

I’d like to thank Bardo Director, Fatima Azoug and Curator Adila Talbi and Bardo staff for their cooperation in making this event possible. Their dedication and commitment to honoring the past through projects like this one is telling of the Algeria’s commitment to not only its heritage, but to the shared heritages of others.

Since we are here to honor the American Indian, I find it most appropriate to leave you with a Cherokee Indian Blessing:

“May the warm winds of heaven, blow softly upon your house. May the Great Spirit, bless all who enter there. May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows, and may the rainbow always touch your shoulder.”

Enjoy your evening!